DRIFFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1940 AND 1941.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Officers of the Sanitary Authority:-

The Clerk:	R. B. TOLLETT.
Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor.	F. H. MARGERRISON, Cert. R. San.I., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector. (Left February 1942).	F. A. LODGE, Cert. R. San.I. and Meat and Other Foods. Cert. M.S.I.A.
Evacuation Officer. (Appointed January 1942).	MRS. M. A. BRADSHAW.
Medical Officer of Health.	ALAN MILNER M.B. Ch.B.

To the Chairman and Members of the Driffield Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is regretted that, owing to depletion of our meagre staff and extra work which has been imposed on the Public Health Department, it has not been possible to issue my report for 1940 earlier. I now propose to issue a shortened report of the two years 1940 and 1941.

I am able to report that in the first two full years of war no noticeable increase in infectious disease, other than minor ones, has occurred, and in no way can the health of the people in general be said to have deteriorated. In fact it seems that the converse is true and that a simple, wholesome diet and no unemployment have probably improved the health, mentally and physically of everyone.

In the country districts nearly all the householders grow a great deal of their food, and vegetables, fruit and eggs have given them many advantages over the town dwellers. Morale can be said to be excellent and the heavy raids of 1940 and 1941 had little effect on the residents despite the area's geographical situation.

Scabies and impetigo amongst the evacuated people has been a great difficulty, and it was not possible to find Institutional or other treatment for the children. Some were sent to Sick Bays of other Authorities and the results were not always satisfactory.

Disinfection of clothing and bedding was one of the main troubles, and neither the Public Assistance Institution nor the Isolation Hospital were willing to help in sterilization with their steam plants.

At the end of 1941 a Sick Bay for the treatment of skin cases was opened by this Authority with 24 beds, and it has relieved the Evacuation Staff of a great deal of difficulty.

An airtight chamber has been constructed for fumigation at the Sick Bay, and all clothing and bedding which can be collected from scabies and impetigo infected children is sterilized and washed before re-issue.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Number of Evacuees billeted on 31st. December,	1940.	949.
" " " " " " "	1941.	1128.

Regular evacuations to this area have taken place and, of course, numbers of children have returned to the towns. Those going home for holidays have often returned with scabies or some other skin disease, and have caused much extra work to the householders and Evacuation Staff.

At present the majority of evacuated children are billeted in the cottages of the working people, and it is noticeable that few of the larger houses in the district contain evacuees.

It cannot be said that every section of the community has helped to make the scheme a success.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area: 98,423 acres.
Rateable Value: (1940 - £32,023). (1941 - £32,390).
Product of a Penny Rate: (1940 - £128.) (1941 - £129).
Estimated Population. 1940. 10,440. 1941. 10,090.

BIRTHS.

			1940 Total.	1940 M.	1940 F.	1941 Total.	1941 M.	1941 F.
Live Births:	1.	Total Births.	168	77	91	175	85	90
	2.	Legitimate.	159	75	84	155	76	79
	3.	Illegitimate.	9	2	7	20	9	11
Still Births:	1.	Total.	6	2	4	4	4	0
	2.	Legitimate.	6	2	4	4	4	0
	3.	Illegitimate.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths.		All ages.	138	76	62	119	62	57

	1940.	1941.
Birth Rate.	16.0	17.3 per 1000 Population.
Illegitimate Birth Rate.	.86	1.8 " " "
Still Birth Rate.	35.7	22.8 " " Births.
Death Rate.	13.2	11.8 " " Population.
" " infants under 1 year.	.7	.6 " " "
Infantile Mortality Rate.	47.6	34.2 " " Births.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	1940.	1941.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	1	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	1	2
Syphilitic Disease.	1	-
Influenza.	9	2
Measles.	1	-
Acute Eucephalitis.	1	-
Cancer.	15	21
Diabetes.	1	1
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions.	16	13
Heart Disease.	[illegible]	23
Other circulatory diseases.	5	9
Bronchitis.	10	9
Pneumonia.	4	5
Other Respiratory Diseases.	2	2
Digestive diseases.	2	2
Appendicitis.	-	2
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum.	-	1
Nephritis.	2	1
Premature Birth.	1	-
Congenital Malformation.	1	2
Suicide.	3	-
Road Traffic Accidents.	2	2
Other Violent Causes.	5	5
All other causes.	19	13

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases were notified:-

	1940.	1941.
Scarlet Fever.	12	30
Whooping Cough.	27	36
Diphtheria.	6	-
Erysipelas.	1	1
Measles.	197	5
Pneumonia.	18	4
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

In 1940 two new cases were notified both being pulmonary cases aged 17 and 55.

In 1941 six new cases were notified, three were pulmonary cases aged 21, 18 and 36 years.

The three non-pulmonary cases were aged 2, 21 and 1½ years.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This was commenced in 1941 at each school in the area. General practitioners were employed at the prescribed fee per session and it was estimated that 56% of the children attending the elementary schools were immunised by 31st. December, 1941.

At the same time about 19% of the children under 5 were inoculated at school.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Council's pumping plant and pipe system now provides the General Water Supply for practically the whole area. The Scheme is in the charge of the Water Engineer and Manager, C. B. Newton, Esq., M.Inst.,C.E., F.G.S., of Hull with a Waterworks Superintendent resident at the Hutton Pumping Station.

Samples have been taken at different points on the supply system at various times, they have been forwarded for bacteriological examination and all have been satisfactorily reported on.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The character and efficiency of drainage and sewerage in the various parishes remain the same as set out in my Annual Report for 1937.

At Wansford, a length of main drain (open jointed common pots) alongside the Churchyard wall has been taken up and relaid with 9" sanitary pipes properly jointed, and an additional manhole provided.

Closet Accommodation and Scavenging.

Conditions, and types of closet accommodation, are all as set out in my previous reports. There is no material change and Nafferton is the only village where collection of night-soil is undertaken, this being done by Contract and the Contractor disposes of all the material collected.

The Scavenging of refuse, other than salvage, from the Driffield R.A.F. Station and villages is carried out by Contract and disposed of by tipping.

Inspection, Etc.

Housing.

	1940.	1941.
Houses inspected.	91	80
Subsequent visits.	12	7
Informal notices served.	9	14
" " complied with.	9	14
Statutory notices served.	-	-
Houses found overcrowded	7	4
Privies converted to W.C.s.	3	8
" " Pail Closets.	11	5
Pail Closets Converted to W.C.s.	4	1
New Houses built (private enterprise)	-	-

Disinfection and Disinfestation.	1940.	1941.
Houses disinfected after causes of Infectious Disease.	18	30
Schools disinfected.	2	1
Houses disinfected (pests).	1	2
Nuisances.		
Total number found and remedied.	6	8
Water Supplies.		
Wells closed owing to being unsafe.	2	-
Samples sent for bacteriological examination.	2	3
Factories.		
Number of inspections of factories.	12	7
" " " " other premises.	1	2
" " defects found and remedied.	3	3

HOUSING.

The Council's Housing Scheme as regards work in hand on the building programme was completed in 1939 and work under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 has remained in abeyance during the two years under review.

Demolition of condemned houses has not been proceeded with. Eight of the condemned houses have been utilized for housing Evacuees and fifty four are still occupied pending a resumption of activities in the Council's Housing Programme when considered opportune.

In addition to the eight condemned houses before-mentioned, 18 private houses were requisitioned between 10.5.41 and 30.11.41 for the purpose of housing Evacuees.

Three other private houses were requisitioned, on 10 and 11.4.41 and 19.9.41, for the purpose of housing Bombed-out families.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.	1940.	1941.
Number of Dairies and Cowsheds on Register.	502	501
" " Inspections made.	127	119
" " Defects found and remedied.	33	25

Meat and Other Foods.

The Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, No.41 made by the Minister of Food came into force on the 15th January, 1940, the effect of which was to prohibit slaughtering of livestock for the provision of meat in all the slaughter-houses in the Driffield Rural District. The inspection of carcases is confined to the selected slaughter-house which is situate outside the Rural Area.

SALVAGE.

A Salvage Scheme for the Collection and Disposal of Waste Materials from the villages in the Rural District was inaugurated in May, 1940 and was mainly concentrated on the salvage of Waste Paper, Cardboard and Books but included scrap metals, rags and other textiles, bones, etc., much of which had been previously collected as indestructible refuse and tipped to waste or otherwise disposed of by burning.

The amount salvaged and disposed of up to the end of December 1941 was 38½ tons of Paper, Cardboard and Books, the value being £214. 0. 0., 21½ cwts. of bones, 2 tons of textiles and 4½ tons of scrap metals, in addition to which unknown quantities were collected and disposed of privately.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
ALAN MILNER, M.B.

"The Elms",
Nafferton.